Default in Payment of PF and Gratuity by Firms in Maharashtra

1819. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the industries and firms based in Maharashtra which have defaulted in the payment of statutory requirements like Provident Fund and Gratuity for more than the last six months,

(b) what action has been taken by Government against the above firms; and

(c) whether an assurance has been given by Government to the affected workers for the recovery of their arrears and future compliance by the firms so as to improve their position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Amendment of Minimum Wages Act

1820. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government have decided to amend the Minimum Wages Act to do away with the definition of 'adult' and 'child' labour to ensure equal wages for both;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government considers this step enough to persuade the western countries to lift embargoes on import of Indian produce involving child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such embargo has been imposed by any western country.

Housing Activity by Provident Fund Organisation

1821. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Provident Fund Organisation is considering to take up housing activities, or trying to invest the unclaimed amounts in the institutions which are involved in housing activities,

(b) if so, what is the amount available with the PFO for this purpose

(c) whether the houses thus constructed will be allotted only to the subscribers or will be sold at market price; and

(d) what is the total amount lying unclaimed as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The CBT, EPF has recently constituted a Sub-Committee to examine the feasibility of setting up a fund for the housing need of the Employees' Provident Fund subscribers. As the proposal is still in the embryonic stage, it is difficult to give the required information.

(d) Rs. 66.43 crores (As on 31-3-1993).

Abolition of Child Labour in the Country

1822. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the south Asian coalition on child Servitude contested Labour Ministry's recent claim that Government would wipe out the system of child labour within three years;

(b) if so, whether the education of child labour is not even on the agenda of Government;

(c) if so, whether the U5 Senate is introducing a Bill seeking ban on products manufactured by child labour;

(d) if so whether this kind of legislation is also being considered in India:

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what action Government propose to take to eliminate child labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Government have identified 10 States/U.Ts with relatively lesser of child labour for making concerted efforts with a view to eliminate child labour in a span of 3 years. A recent news paper report has extrapolated the time span for total eradication of child labour in the country to be nine hundred years.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The details have been furnished in reply to the Rajya Sabha Starred Q. No. 16 dated 26th July, 1993.

National Wage Policy

1823. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to evolve a National Wage Policy for the benefit of the poor labourers in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any commission has been set up in this regard; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The issue relating to formulation of a National Wage Policy has been considered by various fora in the past. A Group of State Labour Ministers in September, 1985 decided that it might not be feasible to frame a National Wage Policy at the present stage. This subject was also considered by the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) held in November 1985. The ILC expressed the view that "till such time a national wage is feasible it would be desirable to have regional minimum wage in regard to which the Central Government may lay down the guidelines. The minimum wages should be revised at regular periodically and should be linked with rise in cost of living". Accordingly, the Government have issued guidelines on Regional Minimum Wages in July, 1987 to all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations The State Governments/U.T. Administrations were also requested to provide for variable Dearness Allowance linked to consumer price index, as a part of minimum wages, to be revised every 6 months.

Child Labour in Orissa

1824. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employment of children as labourers in the agrarian sector, in beedi making, brick kilns and other operations continues under inhuman conditions in Orissa;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these children are not paid according to the quantum and quality of services rendered by them and have no fixed working hours; and

(c) if so, what are the details of steps Government propose to take to put an end to this gross violation of human rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Child Labour Welfare Projects

1825. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of child labour projects in existence for the welfare of the child labour; and